NC 281 / Silversteen Rd (SR 1309) / Macedonia Church Road (SR 1326)

from NC 215 to Jackson County

Local ID: **TRAN0047-H**

Purpose: **Facility Deficiencies**

Improvement: **Improve Existing**

Identified Need

NC 281 / Silversteen Rd (SR 1309) / Macedonia Church Road (SR 1326) have no paved shoulder and lane widths of 7-10 feet. They are part of the Ride Transylvania County Bike Routes.

Recommendation

Improve alignment, lane widths, and shoulders to current design standards, including 5-foot paved shoulders.

Proposal At A Glance

Highway Class	Modernization
Facility Type	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane
Typical Section	02 A
Section Options	-
Estimated Cost	-
Length (miles)	8.48
Existing ROW (feet)	60-100
Safety Risk Score	-

Proposal Data: 2017 Base Year / 2045 Future Year

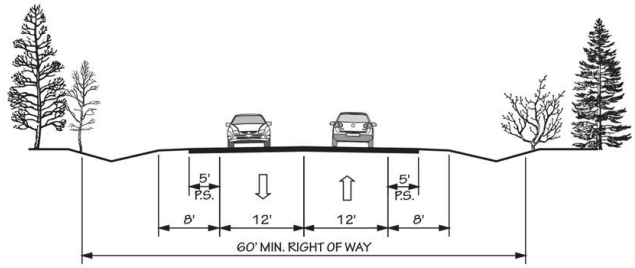
Improved Route	Existing	Without Proposal	With Proposal
Facility Type	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane
Travel Lanes	2	2	2
Volume (vpd)	110-490	310-790	-
Capacity (vpd)	10200-14000	10200-14000	10200-14000

Capacity Data:	Year
Facility will be Approaching Capacity (>80%)	-
Facility will be Over Capacity (>=100%)	-

Typical Section Options:
None

TYPICAL SECTION No. 2A

2 LANE UNDIVIDED WITH PAVED SHOULDERS



POSTED SPEED 55 MPH

Project Overview

Linkage to Other Plans
According to the 2013 Blue Ridge Bike Plan, this facility is part of an "Other Bicycle Corridor" serving the region. According to the 2025 Transylvania Count Comprehensive Plan, this facility is part of the "Regional On-Road Bicycle Routes" identified in that plan. NC 281 is classified as a major collector on the Federal Functional Classification System. Silversteen Rd (SR 1309) / Macedonia Church Road (SR 1326) are classified as a minor collectors on the Federal Functional Classification System.

Multi-Modal Considerations
Transylvania County Transit, under the name "Transylvania in Motion" operates a fixed route as well as demand response system within the county. The deviated-fixed route does not reach this facility; however, it is within the demand-response area.

The Transylvania County Bicycle Plan (2019) recommends a bike lane or paved shoulder along these facilities due to the higher traffic volumes and speeds.

Goals & Objectives Survey
The citizens of Transylvania County responded to a public survey in early 2019 with a great deal of support for new greenways, sidewalks, and multi-use paths. When asked for their top three most important project types, these categories ranked first, third and fifth, out of a dozen choices. Rounding out the top five were maintenance and safety projects at second and fourth respectfully.

Natural & Human Environmental Context
Based on planning level environmental assessment using available GIS data, the proposed project intersects the Pisgah National Forest & Gamelands, the North Fork of the French Broad River, Parker Creek, Beasley Creek, Lamance Creek, Mill Branch, and related wetlands. According to LHI Guild Analysis, this project intersects multiple guilds of the Mesic Hardwood, Mixed Forest, Sparsely Settled Mixed Habitats, Woodland, and Barrens variety. These are predominantly A-ranked resources with the balance being B-ranked. It is also within the vicinity of water bodies and two mitigation sites. The project is in proximity of one cemetery. Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute is a large employer on this facility, and the speed limits around the institute are 35 MPH.